



CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

The **Ecology Board** met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at: 6:58 p.m.

The following were present:

Chairman Martin Crossland
Vice Chair Wendy Anderson-Booher
Ann Trina Aguila
Carl Malek

Also present:

Board Secretary Elora R. Sakal

2) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the August 23, 2011 were approved as written.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher moved the item. Board member Aguila seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

3) Old Business

a. Recycling at City Buildings & City Events

Chairman Crossland believes that the board discussed a lot at the last meeting but unfortunately nothing has happened with the plans other than the rain barrels.

Board member Aguila mentioned that the survey questions were also given.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher said that the community garden is also in progress.

Board member Malek stated that there will also be a community garden at the Curtiss Mansion.

Board member Aguila explained that there was an invitation to the public in the Gazette to participate at the community garden.

Chair Crossland said that both the survey questions and the community garden have moved on without any encouragement from the City Council. He stated that Miami Springs is one of the few cities in Miami Dade County that does not have a uniform recycling policy.

Chair Crossland explained that he has attempted to contact Councilman Bob Best but has not had any luck speaking with him. He distributed an email that he sent to Councilman Best. He said that the offer in the email seemed to be simple and the only cost to the City might be the recycling bins.

Board member Malek stated that they could try to see if they can find a company that would donate bins to the city.

Board member Aguila noted that there was a complaint that the bins did not look nice.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher said that they have looked at pictures of different bins. She said an issue that was brought up was that recycling bins that are placed strategically throughout the city would be emptied by Public Works and not the County so the city would have to come up with the funds to have those bins emptied as well as the garbage bins.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher explained that Public Works does not know if they have the manpower for someone to empty the recycling bins and they would possibly have to hire an extra person.

Chair Crossland stated that the Ecology Board's job would be to show the city that it could be done.

Board member Aguila asked who would know if it is possible to implement the recycling bins and Chair Crossland replied that the board cannot do anything until the City Council approves of the recommendation.

Board member Aguila asked if they are able to talk to Council as a private citizen and Vice Chair Anderson-Booher replied that she is able to speak as a private citizen but cannot speak as a board member or mention the board whatsoever.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher stated that there are recycling bins at the Community Center, the pool, East Drive, and the play grounds.

Chair Crossland asked if they were being used and Vice Chair Anderson-Booher replied that they are being used but they are emptied by a private recycling company.

Chair Crossland explained that everyone should have the same policy throughout the entire city.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher mentioned that she does not believe that there were recycling bins at the BBQ Blast that was held last Saturday on the circle.

Board member Aguila said that their priority should be to get the recycling issue on the agenda.

Chair Crossland said that if Council is reading the minutes then they should allow the Ecology Board to move forward with the project because that is what they are here for. He believes that the board can come up with a reasonable idea for the recycling bins.

Board member Malek stated that the Ecology Board is not here to talk about things, but rather to do things.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher reiterated that they have been successful with the rain barrel workshop being done twice in two years.

Board member Aguila said that each board member needs to contact their Council person before the next meeting.

Chair Crossland asked the board members if they thought the email that he sent was okay and if there was anything they would like to add and the board members replied that it was okay and they had nothing to add.

Chair Crossland explained that recycling bins should be done city-wide and when there are activities on the circle there should be recycling bins.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher mentioned that her notes said that the Clean Up The Environment (C.U.T.E) project was on hold until the Board of Parks and Parkways checked it out.

Board member Malek stated that he believes it was something that Allene Paz mentioned to them.

Board member Malek said that he spoke with Councilman Dan Espino regarding the recycling idea and he thought that it was a great idea. He had contacts for all of the different organizations in Miami Springs and said he would contact them and let them know and possibly get together and go from there.

Board member Aguila asked if Councilman Espino put the item on the agenda and Board member Malek said that he did not ask him that yet but he did want to let him know of the idea.

Board member Malek explained that it would be a good idea to get other people involved such as the boy scouts, girl scouts, and different clubs at the high school.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher noted that high school students can receive community hours that they need to accomplish for graduation.

Board member Malek said that the benefits to having recycling bins are that the city is being cleaned up, property values may increase, and people are being healthy and getting exercise by walking around and picking up trash.

Board member Aguila noted that she participated in the strategic planning meeting and she spread the message regarding recycling.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher asked how that meeting went and Board member Aguila replied that it was a very small group but she believes it went very well.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher stated that she does not know what is so hard about the recycling project but it seems that it is so difficult to move forward.

Chair Crossland mentioned that the Ecology Board is offering to do the project for the City Council.

Board member Malek noted that the Ecology Board should be present at the next council meeting.

Chair Crossland asked if they can speak and Board member Malek replied that they can as a private citizen during the open forum.

Board member Aguila said that it would be a good reminder for them so Council could put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher noted that she believes Council is reading the minutes but it has not been put on the agenda.

Board member Aguila asked if the City Manager is in charge of putting items on the agenda and board member Malek said he was not positive but thought that he did and that they can also find out through the City Clerk.

Board member Aguila stated that they need the recycling bins and the Clean Up The Environment (C.U.T.E) project on the agenda.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher asked if the board would be requesting funds for the Clean Up The Environment (C.U.T.E.) project or just an approval and Board member Aguila replied that they are asking to research it and then present a plan.

Chair Crossland noted that what might worry Council is the liability and Vice Chair Anderson-Booher agreed.

Board member Aguila brought up two other projects including the grey water usage and the CFL light bulbs.

Vice Chair Anderson-Booher said that those projects can come back up later on so that there are not too many projects to be approved all at once.

Discussion ensued regarding a recycling bin at the University of Miami.

Chair Crossland noted that everyone should get in contact with their Council person and attempt to get the two projects placed on the agenda.

b. Accomplishment Objectives

This item was discussed under the previous item of Recycling at City Buildings & City Events.

4) New Business:

None.

5) Adjournment

There was no further business to be discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elora R. Sakal
Board Secretary

Approved as written during meeting of: 02-28-2012

Words ~~-stricken-through-~~ have been deleted. Underscored words represent changes. All other words remain unchanged.

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